

Walden

Henry David Thoreau

What does Thoreau want to remove from life in order to discover what life actually is?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Why go to the woods?
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Where I Lived, and What I Lived For
START	I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately
END	and, if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion.
PASSAGE ID	sec-wal-02

THE MOVE

Follow a purpose statement through its repeated contrasts

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Thoreau’s purpose statement defines the woods less as a destination than as a method of subtraction. He wants to strip away hurry, distraction, and secondhand living so that the essential facts of life become visible.

MARK

Underline each verb describing what Thoreau intends to do at Walden. Circle the things he wants to remove, avoid, or refuse. Star the phrase that best defines what remains after the subtraction.

NOTICE

- Is Thoreau going to the woods mainly to gain something or to remove something?
- What does he think ordinary life adds that prevents clear understanding?
- How do the repeated contrasts between essential and nonessential sharpen his purpose?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Thoreau want to remove from life in order to discover what life actually is? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Thoreau want to remove from life in order to discover what life actually is? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Thoreau wants to strip away hurry, distraction, secondhand priorities, and unnecessary complexity so he can confront the 'essential facts' directly. Going to the woods is a method of subtraction.
EVIDENCE	Use the purpose verbs in the passage and the repeated contrast between essential life and the things he wants to avoid, refuse, or remove.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer that Thoreau wants to escape society because he dislikes people. The question is about what he subtracts in order to see life more clearly.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

Walden

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What does Thoreau want to remove from life in order to discover what life actually is?

START ANCHOR	I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately
END ANCHOR	and, if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline each verb describing what Thoreau intends to do at Walden. Circle the things he wants to remove, avoid, or refuse. Star the phrase that best defines what remains after the subtraction.
2. NOTICE - Is Thoreau going to the woods mainly to gain something or to remove something? What does he think ordinary life adds that prevents clear understanding? How do the repeated contrasts between essential and nonessential sharpen his purpose?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does Thoreau want to remove from life in order to discover what life actually is?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.